

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are now pending in this application, claim 5 having been cancelled by the present Amendment. Claims 1-4 were indicated to be allowable if amended to overcome the objections thereto (discussed below) set forth in the Office Action. Claim 10 was allowed.

Claim Objections for Informalities

Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9 were objected to for minor informalities. Each of claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9 have been amended hereby, substantially in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, to obviate the informalities pointed out in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is earnestly solicited. Moreover, in view of these amendments, it is submitted that claims 1-4 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action objects to the terminology "a portion" in claims 6 and 8, asserting that it is not clear whether the portion belongs to a first portion or second portion.

Claim 6 previously depended from claim 5, which has been cancelled by this Amendment. Claim 5 recited "a first portion" and "a second portion". However, with the

cancellation of claim 5, there is no previous recitation of “a first portion” and “a second portion” to cause confusion.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 6-8 recite the invention in a manner that satisfies the requirements of §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection under §112(2) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by **Kolpin** (USP 4,900,982).

Claim 5 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 5 is rendered moot.

Claim 6 has been amended to place this claim in independent form. Claim 6 includes the features that the Examiner indicated were allowable, as set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 6.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 6, and claim 9 which depends therefrom, patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and define allowable subject matter.

Application No. 10/697,647
Art Unit: 2821

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 032082

CONCLUSION

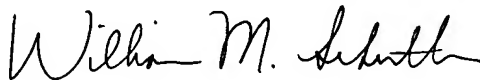
In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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